

Community Opposes Threat to Dimond Post Office

I am filing this public comment on behalf of the Save Our Dimond 94602 Post Office committee, a community group whose sole purpose is to keep our Post Office open. To that end we distributed petitions and have gathered 7,000 signatures from community members who use our Post Office and want it to remain open. These petitions have been mailed to Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Postal Service District Manager Kim Fernandez, and Oakland Postmaster Lowana Gooch. We have also mailed hundreds of post cards to the above mentioned recipients detailing how individuals get to the post office (mass transit, walking, using the free parking, etc.), and what services they use (purchase stamps, money orders, PO Boxes, etc.).

With 28,880 residents counted in zip-code 94602 in the 2000 census, our Dimond Post Office serves a larger population than the national average of less than 10,000 people for each USPS retail facility. The petition signatures equal 25% of our community.

Why should the Dimond Post Office remain open?

- **Many of our neighbors are elderly. Three nearby senior residences – Lincoln Court, Beth Asher and the Altenheim – are home to hundreds of senior citizens who rely on this post office. They no longer drive and require a post office close to their homes to which they can have access by walking or bus.**
- **There is a vital community of businesses and residents who use the post office daily to send letters and packages, purchase stamps and money orders.**
- **This post office is located at an important public transportation hub and shopping area which anchors one end of the Fruitvale Alive Community Transportation Plan for Fruitvale Avenue, a major Oakland thoroughfare**
- **Many people walk to the Dimond Post Office resulting in less traffic and a more positive environmental experience.**
- **There is available free parking behind the post office, as well as public**

parking in nearby lots.

→ The Dimond merchant area is an active and thriving center for several multi-cultural communities. The Dimond businesses, the Dimond Branch Library and the Dimond Post Office form the thriving center for one of the most diverse parts of Oakland.

→ The post office is integral to the business district and its economic stability. Loss of the post office would mean reduced patronage of surrounding businesses since post office patrons would go to different neighborhoods or stop using the post office altogether.

→ Many people in the Dimond rent post office boxes, as do the businesses and residents in the surrounding areas such as the Glenview, Oakmore, Fruitvale, and Laurel neighborhoods. Business, residents and seniors use this post office to send letters and packages, purchase stamps and other products, including money orders. Even people from the Montclair neighborhood, which has its own Post Office, come to the Dimond branch because it is more convenient.

→ Many people choose to bring their mail to the post office, instead of having the mail carriers pick it up from residential mailboxes. because there is a lack of security in leaving mail out for the mail carrier to collect.

We urge the Postal Regulatory Commission and the US Postal Service to support neighborhoods, local businesses, seniors, and a smaller carbon footprint by leaving the Dimond 94602, CA Post office open at its present location.

Sincerely,

**Leslie Ann Jones
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Oakland, CA 94602**